Keeping You Informed

Beware of Union Misinformation



CommonSpirit

Penrose Hospital

CommonSpirit

Some of our employees are hearing from union supporters and representatives and being asked to attend meetings and sign union authorization cards. We want to make sure you have all the facts when it comes to unions.

Myth:

The hospital really doesn't want me to go to a union meeting and get information from the union.



Myth:

It's no big deal to sign a union card.



The Truth:

This is a common lie spread by union organizers. If you are invited to a union meeting, and you want to attend, you have every right to do so. We want you to have all the facts from all sides of the union issue because it could be one of the biggest decisions you make in your professional career. The presence of a union could change the fundamental way that we work when it comes to collaboration, compensation, scheduling, training, promotions and our ability to respond to the needs of our employees and patients. If you do attend a union meeting, be careful if you are asked to sign anything because you could be inadvertently giving the union the right to speak for you. You should not have to sign anything to get more information.

The Truth:

It's a big deal to sign anything from the union because often those documents can be used by the union with the federal National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to demonstrate that the union has enough support from employees to ask for voluntary recognition or to ask for a union election. Union cards, electronic authorization cards and/or union petitions look harmless, but they are legally binding and could potentially be used to prevent you from being able to vote in a secret ballot election. Union authorization cards are required by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to ask for your personal, confidential information. A union organizer or coworker may use your information in ways you don't want, including sharing it with others. A signed union authorization card or petition is a legal power of attorney authorizing a union to act as your collective bargaining agent in negotiations. Protect your rights and your privacy by not signing union materials.



